

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AUCKLA 00083 220426Z
ACTION EA-12

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TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 922
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: AMTRAK FAM TOUR

REF: USDOC 23063, AUCKLAND 0546, USDOC 23429, AUCKLAND 0595.

FOR PETERSON, MPD, UNITED STATES TRAVEL SERVICE.
I WOULD LIKE TO PASS ALONG THE FOLLOWING FOR YOU AND THOSE WITH
YOU WHO ASSISTED WITH THE AMTRAK FAM TOUR. THIS IS AN EXTRACT
FROM THE TEXT OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL BY
GRAHAM CALDWELL, MANAGING DIRECTOR, HUNTS CAREFREE HOLIDAYS,
AUCKLAND, WHO WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THE TOUR AND THIS EXTRACT IS
FROM HIS RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY AS TO THE RESULTS OF HIS TRIP.

IN SO FAR AS THE VISIT WAS CONCERNED, I FOUND IT TO BE
EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL IN GAINING FURTHER KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNITED
STATES, BUT MORE ESPECIALLY IN MEETING WITH SENIOR EXECUTIVES
OF AMTRAK AND DISCUSSING FACE TO FACE THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE
THE REVITALISATION OF PASSENGER RAIL TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES.
I KNOW THAT BOTH PARTIES NOW FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS
EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST AND THE TASK OF RECTIFYING THE SAME HAS
BEEN MINIMISED CONSIDERABLY.

IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT WITH THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED BUDGET AIR
FARES A GREATER INTEREST IN TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES EXISTS
WITH THE NEW ZEALAND CONSUMER, AND IF THE ENQUIRIES RECEIVED ON
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BEHALF OF AMTRAK ARE ANY INDICATION IT HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF
BEING A GOOD YEAR FOR TRAVEL TO YOUR COUNTRY.

THE ENTIRE PROGRAM FOR MY VISIT WAS WELL ORGANISED AND I WISH TO
TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU AND YOUR STAFF, THE U.S.T.S.,
AMTRAK AND THE MANY OTHER ORGANISEIONS AND PEOPLE WHO MADE IT
ALL POSSIBLE.

MR. CALDWELL HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PROMOTING AMTRAK AND THE
CONSULATE GENERAL FEELS HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES WAS AN
EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE EXERCISE.
WILLIAMS

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